

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

August 2014 – Week 3

Air Date: August 10 – August 16 (Sunday – Saturday)



### TITLE: FRENCHMAN'S REVENGE

AUGUST 1719 A FRENCH TWIST TO A TEXAS TALE.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

AUGUST 14, 1719. LE ROCHELLE, FRANCE. OFFICER FRANÇOIS SIMARS DE BELLISLE BOARDS A NAVAL SHIP BOUND FOR LOUISIANA.

LOST, THE SHIP RUNS AGROUND NEAR GALVESTON BAY AND BELLISLE GOES ASHORE TO FIND HELP, BUT GETS LEFT BEHIND.

STARVING AND NEAR DEATH, THE FRENCHMAN IS ENSLAVED BY INDIANS. FOR OVER A YEAR, HE SUFFERS BEATINGS AND HUMILIATION BEFORE HIS WRITTEN PLEA FOR HELP REACHES A FRENCH OUTPOST AND HE IS RESCUED.

SIX MONTHS LATER, HE RETURNS, THIS TIME AS AN INTERPRETER. SHOCKED TO SEE THEIR FORMER SLAVE, NINE OF HIS CAPTORS ARE ARRESTED AND TAKEN BACK TO LOUISIANA.

BELLISLE SET SAIL ON HIS AMAZING JOURNEY 295 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Robert S. Weddle, "BELLISLE, FRANCOIS SIMARS DE," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbe42>), accessed July 31, 2014. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Folmer, Henri. (1940). De Bellisle on the Texas coast. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, 44 (2), 204–231.

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